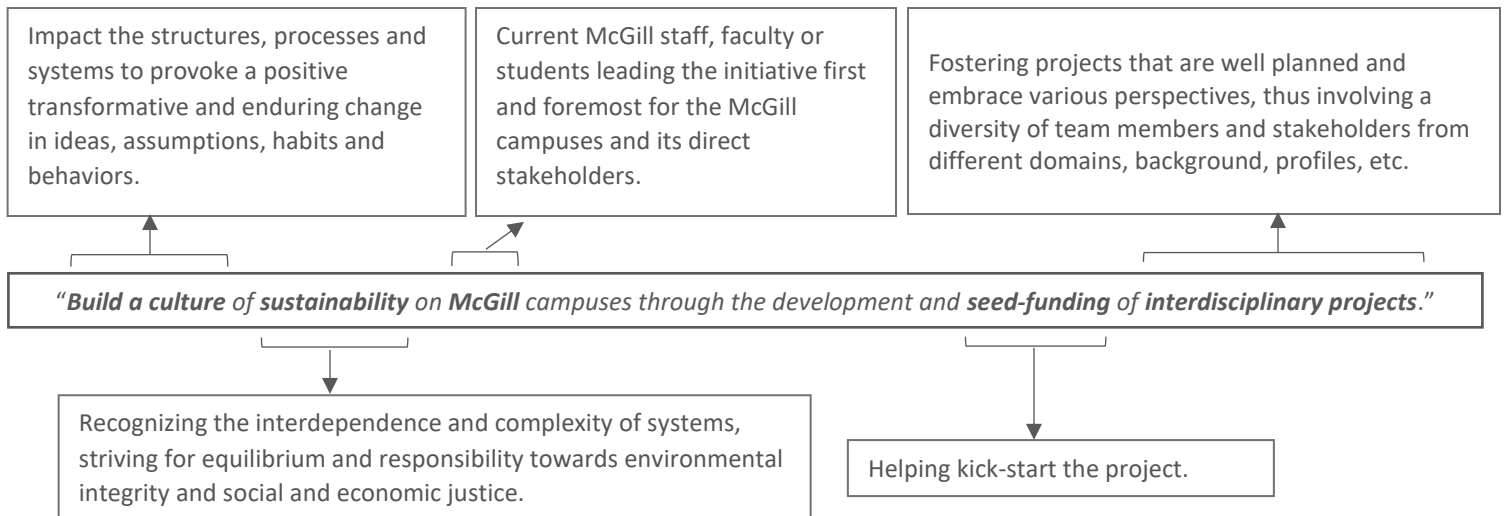


INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY INTO YOUR SPF PROJECT

Throughout the SPF application form, you will be asked to demonstrate how your team will **address the three dimensions of sustainability** (social, environmental, and economic) into your project’s planning and activities. This document is intended to help you become familiar with what sustainability means at McGill and how you can integrate these concepts into all stages of your project.

PART I: CONNECTING YOUR PROJECT TO THE MANDATE OF THE SPF

The Mandate of The Sustainability Projects Fund:

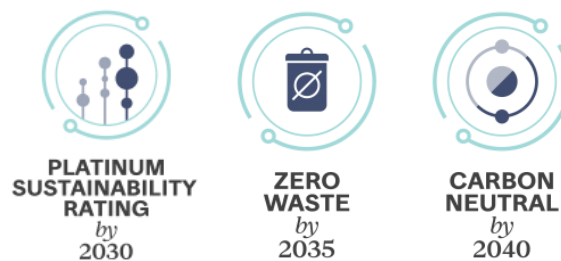


PART II: WHAT DOES SUSTAINABILITY LOOK LIKE AT MCGILL?

Sustainability at McGill is defined as:

“Working together toward a shared vision for a flourishing future in a manner that integrates social, economic, and environmental dimensions.”

In December 2020, McGill published its [Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025](#) to guide and connect sustainability initiatives on campus. The Strategy is defined by two **transversal themes**: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation. This Strategy commits McGill to three ambitious, yet realistic **long-term targets**:



To support the achievement of these targets, the Strategy examines the University’s activities across **eight categories**: (1) Research & Education, (2) Buildings & Utilities, (3) Waste Management, (4) Travel & Commuting, (5) Food Systems, (6) Procurement, (7) Landscapes & Ecosystems, and (8) Community Building. Each category highlights one flagship action, a series of complimentary actions, and ways for students, staff, and faculty to get involved and contribute to a sustainable McGill. Find out more about the Strategy on the [Office of Sustainability’s website](#).

Sustainability incorporates three dimensions¹:

DIMENSION	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
Social	"...the long-term equitable distribution of opportunities and access that facilitate wellbeing and prosperity for everyone involved"	Collaboration, wellness & health, community engagement, belonging, accessibility, and knowledge sharing
Economic	"...the process of ensuring the wellbeing of present and future generations through responsible and just economic activity"	Transparency, accountability
Environmental	"... the process of ensuring the long-term maintenance of healthy ecosystems within the limits of a finite planet"	Reducing materials, energy, and water required; local food, public transportation

PART III: INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY INTO YOUR PROJECT

While designing your SPF project idea, sustainability should be integrated not only into the project's goals and objectives, but also into how your team plans and manages the project.

For example, if your project is focused on an environmental issue (e.g., planting a garden):

- Economic aspects could be
 - using reused materials;
 - donating excess produce; and
 - maintaining accounting transparency.
- Social aspects could include
 - providing learning opportunities;
 - collaborating with those affected by the project; and
 - ensuring that the space is accessible for people with different abilities.

Throughout the various stages of your project, here are some ways your team can incorporate sustainability:

- Initial brainstorming: When starting your project, think about how your project can foster a sense of belonging, inclusivity, and wellness. Your initiative should involve and be accessible to individuals with a wide range of perspectives and backgrounds.
- Collaborating with others: Build teams that are diverse, interdisciplinary, inclusive, and equitable.²
- Budgeting: While creating and monitoring your budget, incorporate financial transparency and accountability. Plan for additional funding sources and how your project can transition to becoming financially self-sufficient after the SPF funding ends.
- Inputs/resources: Choose resources that have small environmental footprints and are ethically sourced.
- Activities: Include learning opportunities, such as raising awareness, incorporating [applied student research](#), facilitating knowledge-sharing, learning practical skills, and engaging in dialogue.
- Project completion: While wrapping up your project, share lessons learned and continue with lifelong learning.

¹ [McGill Office of Sustainability Glossary](#)

² Equitable: Equity is an ethical concept that represents fairness, rather than equality or sameness. An equitable community is one in which barriers to or disparities in the distribution of opportunities and services are acknowledged and actively addressed.